



Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

Dean C. Logan
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

December 10, 2014

TO:

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Don Knabe

Sachi A. Hamai, Interim Chief Executive Officer

FROM: Dean C. Logan, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

VSAP Quarterly Report- 4th Quarter, 2014

This serves as our fourth quarterly update report for 2014, detailing project activities and accomplishments during the period of September 6- December 8, 2014. These reports are provided to inform your Board and the public on the progress of the Voting Systems Assessment Project (VSAP) and our ongoing efforts to modernize voting in Los Angeles County. This series of quarterly reports is responsive to the motion adopted by your Board on September 7, 2010.

On November 21, 2014 we achieved a critical milestone with the execution of our contract with the human-centered design firm IDEO for development of design specifications and prototyping of the proposed Ballot Marking Device and other key components of the new voting system. This marks a significant shift in the focus of the project as we transition from the research, ideation and preliminary design stage to an engineering and specifications phase.

Key elements of the new phase of the project include developing the specifications for both hardware and software components for the Ballot Marking Device; requirements for a new tally system; a user experience model; ballot design; and technical proofs (see appendices for detailed plan). These deliverables will move us toward the development of Requests for Proposals or other open, competitive bidding tools for the manufacturing of these components – and, ultimately to a systems integration phase leading to implementation of a new voting experience in Los Angeles County. This engagement with IDEO will span a total of sixteen months during which they will work closely with our office, our stakeholder community and advisory committees.

Current Status: System Refinement and Engineering

IDEO is working on the requirements for this phase of the project. This includes researching our current voting system, identifying team roles, discussing project planning, as well as formulating logistics, communications strategies, and product backlogs.

Last month, during the General Election, IDEO and subcontractors from Cambridge Consultants and Digital Foundry visited our offices to observe the election process. They visited polling places throughout the County to see how voters within Los Angeles County interact with the current voting equipment and engage in the electoral process. They also observed our Check-in Center procedures, the opening and closing of polling locations, and discussed election administration challenges with key staff members. On November 10, 2014, they returned to our offices to tour our Election Operations Center to see how we store, create, and maintain voting machines.

Public and Stakeholder Engagement

In September our offices hosted a meeting with the VSAP Advisory Committee. At this meeting VSAP staff updated the Advisory Committee on our progress and presented research findings on vote centers and tally options. Continued input from our stakeholder community during this next phase of system engineering and design is critical to the project's success.

Our team has also engaged public officials and local voters to discuss the design of our new system. This has involved visiting with some of your offices, demonstrating the early model ballot marking device prototype, and traveling to local conferences. We continue to encourage active engagement and seek to gather as much feedback as possible.

1. September 3, 2014- EAC Roundtable Discussion -Expanding the Body of Knowledge of Election Administration
Presentation to EAC about Election Administration, highlights included the Voting Systems Assessment Project's approach to having a human-centered design, and the importance of voters.
2. September 20, 2014 Tri-League of Women Voters Los Angeles Chapter Presentation
Outreach staff presented the ballot marking device prototype to the local Tri-League of Women Voters chapter in Los Angeles.
3. September 22, 2014-Meeting with 3rd District Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
VSAP staff presented our prototype to the third district supervisor and provided an update on our project.
4. September 23, 2014 Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting
VSAP staff attended the VAAC meeting to inform members of the committee about the status of our project.
5. September 24, 2014- VSAP Advisory Committee Meeting
The VSAP team hosted our Advisory Committee members for a half-day long meeting to bring them up to date on our project status, as well as where it is heading in the next few months. The VSAP team answered any and all questions related to our project.
6. September 25, 2014- Board of Supervisors Operations Cluster
VSAP team members attended the Board of Supervisors' Operational Cluster meeting to discuss our contract with IDEO and the proposed Statement of Work for the next phase of the project.
7. September 25, 2014- Presentation at the Conditional Voter Registration Subcommittee of the California Association of Clerks and Elected Officials.
VSAP team members gave a presentation concerning the research conducted on Vote Centers.

Questions were answered about how vote centers can assist in same-day voter registration.

8. September 29, 2014- Meeting with 1st District Supervisor Gloria Molina
VSAP staff presented our prototype device to the district supervisor and provided a project progress update.
9. September 30, 2014- Presentation to the Industry Hills Rotary Club
RR/CC staff presented our prototype device to the local Industry Hills Rotary Club and discussed our project. Participants were enthusiastic and interested in our progress.
10. October 2, 2014 Presentation at Empowerment Congress
RR/CC executive staff discussed the Voting Systems Assessment Project and answered questions related to the project.
11. October 4, 2014 Voting Modernization Board Meeting
VSAP staff met with Michael Bustamante of the Voting Modernization Board to discuss the progress of our project.
12. October 8, 2014 Community Voter Outreach Meeting (CVOC)
VSAP staff provided an update at our quarterly CVOC meeting in order to keep the public up to date with our project.
13. October 17, 2014 Meeting with the Long Beach Election Oversight Commission
Dean Logan met with the Long Beach Election Oversight Commission and discussed the Voting Systems Assessment Project
14. October 21, 2014 Board of Supervisors Meeting
Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder County Clerk staff and IDEO presented their proposal to the Board of Supervisors at their meeting. Board approved contract.
15. November 4, 2014 General Election and IDEO Engagement
VSAP staff met with IDEO team members and contractors to provide an overview of our elections operations. Among the highlights were trips to several local polling places, view of the voting process, interacting with voters at the polls, closing and check-in center procedures, and observing and discussing the tally process.

About the VSAP

Launched in September 2009, the Voting Systems Assessment Project (VSAP) was developed by the Department in response to the growing voting system needs and challenges faced by the County. While the County's current voting system has served the voters of Los Angeles County with accuracy and integrity, the design of these systems and the age of their technology do not offer the technical and functional elasticity necessary to continue to accommodate the growing and increasingly diverse electorate.

The size and diversity of Los Angeles County and the limited voting systems market, however, make it almost impossible to reasonably consider a commercial off-the-shelf voting system solution. Any voting system solution will entail a significant development or customization process in order to satisfy the County's needs, General Voting System Principles and technical requirements.

In response to these needs and challenges, the VSAP takes an unprecedented and comprehensive

approach at modernizing the County's voting system. The vision of the project is to implement a voting system through a transparent process that takes into account the needs and expectations of current and future Los Angeles County voters. The VSAP aims at achieving three goals in this process: 1) give current and future Los Angeles County voters an unprecedented opportunity to participate in the assessment and development process; 2) increase voter confidence in the electoral process through the participatory structure of the project; 3) synthesize public input and research to acquire or develop a new voting system for the County.

Stay Connected

More information regarding the Voting System Assessment Project (VSAP) is available to the public online at www.lavote.net/voter/vsap and on the project's Facebook page. The pages on our website and on Facebook are frequently updated with news and information and are a great way to stay connected with the progress of the project between quarterly reports. We strongly encourage public input throughout the process and look forward to continuing to work with your board on this critical project. If you have any questions please contact Monica Flores, VSAP Project Coordinator at (562) 345-8372 or via email at mflores@rrcc.lacounty.gov.